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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/550,719

07/12/2006

Peter Buerk

10191/4289

3776

26646 7590 01/07/2009
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EXAMINER

MCCLLOUD, RENATA D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2837

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/07/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/550,719	Applicant(s) BUERK ET AL.	
	Examiner RENATA MCCLOUD	Art Unit 2837	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20,21,26-35,38 and 39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 20,21,27 and 28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26,29-35,38,39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Collings et al (US6054823).

Claim 39: Collings et al teach method for determining an operating state on triggering a fan motor, comprising: operating the fan motor via a switching device (222); triggering the switching device via a pulse-width-modulated triggering signal (1000), a pulse duty factor of the triggering signal predefining a triggering state of the fan motor (col. 5:11-15,50-64); measuring (230) as a measured variable one of a voltage potential at a node between the fan motor (160) and the switching device (222) and a motor current (col. 6: 6-10); and determining an operating state on triggering the fan motor as a function of the measured variable and the pulse duty factor (col. 7:6-22) recognizing a normal operation if the voltage potential is essentially proportional to the pulse duty factor and the voltage potential is in a defined voltage range in relation to an applied pulse duty factor (col. 1:39-49; col. 5:39-6:10) determining the defined voltage range by a measurement at a defined applied supply voltage at different pulse duty factors (col.4:65-5:15; col. 5:39-6:10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 29,34,35 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over.

Yoshimura in view of Wills et al (US 5218283)

Claim 29: Yoshimura teaches a control circuit for a fan motor for determining an operating state on triggering the fan motor, comprising: a switching device (Tr1) having a terminal for connection to a first supply potential; a pulse width modulation circuit (16) for triggering the switching device using a pulse-width-modulated signal having a pulse duty factor, the fan motor being connectable between a second supply potential and the switching device; a measuring circuit (R1) for picking up a measured variable at the switching device; and an analyzer circuit (20) for checking the measured variable and determining the operating state as a function of the measured variable and the pulse duty factor (col.4:56-5:7) wherein the measuring circuit (R1) measures a motor current through the fan motor (2) and the switching device includes an FET (TR1). They do not teach the switching device includes a sense FET to measure the motor current through the fan motor. Wills et al teach a control circuit for a fan motor having a sense FET (fig 4B:245) to measure the motor current through the fan motor . IT would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Yoshimura to use a sense FET as taught by Wills et al in order to provide overcurrent protection.

Art Unit: 2837

Claim 34: Yoshimura teaches a data interface (bus lines) for transmitting the operating state over a network.

Claim 35: Yoshimura teaches the measuring circuit (R1) measures a voltage between the fan motor (2) and the switching device (Tr1).

5. Claim 30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura in view of Wills et al (US 5218283) as applied to claim 29 above and further in view of Eisenhardt et al (US 6577482)

Claim 30: Yoshimura and Wills et al teach the limitations of claim 29. Referring to claim 30, Wills et al teach high pass filters (612,622). They do not teach a filter circuit for smoothing the measured variable in such a way that the measured variable is essentially proportional to the pulse duty factor. Eisenhardt et al teach a filter circuit (R1/R2/C2) for smoothing the measured variable in such a way that the measured variable is essentially proportional to the pulse duty factor. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Yoshimura and Wills et al to have a filter as taught by Eisenhardt et al in order to reduce noise.

6. Claims 31-33 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura in view of Wills et al as applied to claim 29 above and further in view of Erdman et al (US 5075608)

Claim 31: Yoshimura and Wills et al teach the limitations of claim 29. Referring to claim 31, they do not teach a compensating circuit including a data memory and for performing a compensation of the measure a reference variable at a defined applied supply voltage and store the reference variable as reference values in relation to the particular pulse duty factor control

Art Unit: 2837

circuit, the compensating circuit being connected to the measuring circuit in order to. Erdman et al teach a compensating circuit including a data memory and for performing a compensation of the control circuit, the compensating circuit connected to the measuring circuit to measure a reference variable at a defined applied supply voltage and store the reference variable as reference values in relation to the particular pulse duty factor (col. 10:12-28). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Yoshimura and Wills et al to have a compensating circuit as taught by Erdman et al in order to control the motor.

Claim 32: Erdman et al teach wherein the compensating circuit stores further reference values in the data memory, the compensating circuit determining the further reference values from interpolation of the measured reference values. (col. 10:12-28).

Claim 33: Erdman et al teach the analyzer circuit checks the measured variable to determine the operating state by comparing the measured variable to the reference values stored in the data memory in regard to the particular pulse duty factor, and the operating state is recognized as a function of a deviation between the measured variable and the reference variable (col. 10:12-28)

7. Claim 38 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura in view of Wills et al as applied to claim 29 above and further in view of Horng et al (US 6396231).

Claim 38: Yoshimura and Wills et al teach the limitations of claim 29. Referring to claim 38, Yoshimura teaches an FET and Wills et al teach a sense FET. They do not teach a transformer circuit to which is connected the sense FET, wherein the transformer circuit converts a motor current into a proportional voltage that is provided to the measuring circuit. Horng et al teach a transformer circuit to which is connected to a switch wherein the transformer

Art Unit: 2837

circuit converts a motor current into a proportional voltage that is provided to the measuring circuit (col. 4:50-64, applicant refers to the transformer as a voltage divider in par. 0039). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Yoshimura and Wills et al to have a transformer circuit as taught by Horng et al in order to control the power to the motor.

8. Claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collings et al in view of Erdman et al (US 5075608)

Claim 26: Collings et al teach the limitations of claim 24. Referring to claim 26, they do not teach recognizing an overvoltage fault if a measured voltage potential is above the defined voltage range. Erdman teaches (col. 12:7-28). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Collings et al to sense an over voltage as taught by Erdman et al in order to prevent damage to the motor

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 20,21, 27, 28 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art fails to teach or make obvious a method for determining an operating state on triggering a fan motor, comprising the combination of (A) operating the fan motor via a switching device; triggering the switching device via a pulse-width-modulated triggering signal, a pulse duty factor of the triggering signal predefining a triggering state of the fan motor; measuring as a measured variable one of a voltage potential at a node between the fan motor and the switching device and a motor current; determining an operating state on triggering the fan motor as a function of the measured variable and the pulse duty factor and (B) recognizing

Art Unit: 2837

an open load fault if the voltage potential essentially corresponds to a supply voltage potential of the fan motor applied to the switching device; and upon recognition of an open load fault, switching the switching device through for a specific period of time, in order to apply a maximum voltage to the fan motor, so that merely oxidized connection points are cleaned.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RENATA MCCLOUD whose telephone number is (571)272-2069. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.- Fri. from 5:30 am - 2pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Walter Benson can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext. 37. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2837

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Renata McCloud/
Examiner, Art Unit 2837